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taken from the branches of a low bush on the south-east shore of Wall Lake.

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis (Linn.). Five specimens and a skin of this species were obtained, two at Leonard's Pond, one near a well, and two along the shore of Wall Lake.

Amyda spinifer (LeSueur). One small specimen was taken from the Thornapple River three miles northwest of Hastings.

Chelydra serpentina (Linn.). One specimen from Wall Lake.

Kinosternon odoratum (Latreille). Three specimens from Wall Lake. One was found buried in leaves on the bottom of the outlet.

Chrysemys marginata marginata (Agassiz). Eleven specimens taken from Wall Lake.

Emys blandingii (Holbrook). One small specimen found in Carpenter's woods northwest of Wall Lake.

Terrapene carolina carolina (Linn.). One specimen taken in a garden at Hastings.

DOREEN POTTER,
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ON THE COMMON NAME OF *Amphiuma*.

The discussion of the common name of *Amphiuma* by Mr. C. S. Brimley in *Copeia* recalls my own observations on this subject.

While in Louisiana in the Spring of 1915, I collected two specimens of *Amphiuma means*, and as I kept one alive in a tub for a number of days, visiting neighbors afforded a considerable collection of local names. These were Lamp Eel, Lamphe Eel, Lamper Eel and Lamprey Eel. The latter name is probably the source of the others and the better educated among my visitors assured me that this was the case. Brimley records that Lampus Eel is in use in North Carolina, and Lamper Eel in Alabama.

Congo Eel appears to have been entirely displaced.

Evidently Lampus and Lamper Eel are the most widely used common names for this animal and their derivation from a well-known name corresponds to that suggested by Brimley for Congo Eel (from Conger Eel).

I may call attention to the wide applicability of the rule that it is the names of animals which have become well fixed and current in the language that are habitually misapplied in popular nomenclature, if the original owner of the name is unknown, whether or not it occurs in the region in question. The name scorpion thus comes to be applied to a lizard, lizard to salamanders, and salamander to a mammal. Such popular names as the familiar "Robin" are examples of a somewhat different nature, in that the original animal does not occur in the area in question and the newly named animal is in some respect similar to the old.

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A SNAKE CHARMER'S TRICK

Dr. C. F. W. McClure of Princeton University has informed me of an interesting method employed by Egyptian snake charmers to render the cobras used by them harmless. The lower jaw is sewed to the upper for the posterior third or half of its length, the stitches being entirely inside the mouth. The snake is then unable to open its jaws sufficiently to strike effectively while the snake charmer can open them enough to exhibit the fangs in place to the doubting spectator.

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